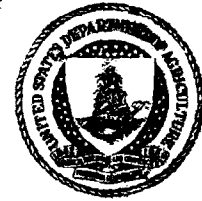




**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**STUDY MADE OF MAGPIE IN  
RELATION TO AGRICULTURE**

The common magpie, a characteristic bird of the plains and mountains of the West, exerts an economic influence similar to that of the crow of the East. A study of its food habits, the results of which have just been published by the United States Department of Agriculture in Technical Bulletin 24-T, "The Magpie in Relation to Agriculture," by E. R. Kalmbach, biologist of the Biological Survey, indicates that as an insect eater the magpie surpasses the crow and all other members of the Corvine family, which includes jays, crows, and magpies. Destructive weevils, caterpillars, and grasshoppers characterize its insect food, which forms nearly 36 per cent of the bird's annual diet. The magpie also eats a limited number of small rodents, and as a carrion feeder it does additional good.

On the other hand, the magpie has some outstanding faults. It is guilty of the destruction of poultry and beneficial wild birds and their eggs and at times becomes a pest on the cattle ranch by its attacks on sick, injured, or weak livestock. There are times when these birds become so bold or gather in such great numbers that a reduction in their numbers is warranted. Poisoning during the winter has been found to be an economical, effective, and safe method of accomplishing this. Extirpation of the bird, however, is not called for, and before local campaigns of control are inaugurated careful consideration should be given to their necessity and scope.

Copies of the new bulletin may be had upon request addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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